Damage due to cyclone and floods in Pondicherry and Karaikal region

1494. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent cyclone and floods have caused extensive damage to the crops and huts in Pondicherry and Karaikal region; and

(b) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Government of Pondicherry for Central assistance to the flood affected people there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Territory of Pondicherry has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance. A Central Team visited the affected areas during November 30 to December 2, 1991 to assess the damage and assistance required. Pending recommendation of Central Team an assistance of Rs. 1.6 crore has been released to the Union Territory of Pondicherry for providing immediate relief measures.

1495. [*Transferred to the 12th December*, 1991]

Agriculture based processing industries

1496. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to promote export oriented and agriculture based processing industries on co-operative basis in rural ares for the benefit of farmers; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has Scheme to provide assistance to State level Government undertakings and cooperative for establishing or enlarging Food, Fruit and Vegetable processing industries to facilitate the farmers of horticultural crops in receiving a remunerative price for their produce. Under this Scheme, Central assistance for any project will be 50 per cent of the non-recurring cost (60 per cent in industrially backard districts and Integrated Tribal Development Project districts (ITDP) and 75 per cent in North-Eastern and Hill States). This assistance is made available to State Government undertakings or State level cooperative organisations.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the Administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture is engaged, among other activities, in planning and promotion of agro-based and export oriented industries in cooperative sector in rural areas for the benefit of farmers. Under the NCDC Schemes assistance rainging between 50 per cent to 95 per cent (50-65 per cent in normal states 75 per cent in under developed States and 95 per cent in least-developed states) is provided.

Modification of crop insurance scheme

1497. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to modify the guidelines in respect of Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHNDRAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to modify the